# Concern

*Youth in Their Families*

Special Issue

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10, No. 4

## Cover Photo

Don Alton (with freckles) is late to supper because of a church softball game, his Sunday school teacher, Mr. Hobart, is explaining to Don's parents. The situation is part of the story told in "A Chance To Grow"—see page 10.

# Written hopefully

The editor's notes to the editor for this column read like this:

"Things 'moved over' for special issue—out early—off to seminar and conference.

"Use lots of MYF news next issue, we hope.

"Needed: MSM news.

"Feature this issue on *another* kind of family (refugees)."

After half an hour of putting one eye on the clock, one ear to the radio to hear the final World Series game, and missing the grindstone with our nose, we pulled ourselves together and came up with the above lines.

To share our ideas with you more clearly, now that the last half of the ninth is up, let's explain that **this issue of CONCERN is intended to give you inspiration and information enough that *your* group can do a fine job of bettering family life through the application of Christianity.**

Because we (that's an editorial word meaning "the editor") will be gone all of publication week for a State Department and United Nations Seminar for church publications editors in Washington and New York, followed by editorial work at the National Family Life Conference in Cleveland, this issue of CONCERN has been put together almost on top of the Oct. 1 issue. Omissions of regular content have been made partly because of the special emphasis and partly because of the time element. Jokes are on page 6.

We're almost swamped with news of Christian Witness missions, camp and conference projects, and miscellaneous stories of MYF in action all over the place—a great outfit. So we hope next issue will include your news, for the reports are loaded with success stories that should be shared.

Meanwhile, we will be glad to have word—lots of words—from those of you who are shifting into high in the 1954-55 program of MSM. Let us know your joys and sorrows, problems and solutions, with or without pictures, but soon.

Our special story in this issue on refugees is an invitation to every Methodist youth to pay attention, to consider the facts, to talk with adult leaders and in youth meetings to see what your church and your community can do to help meet this great need. You want to know what to do—you want to know how to do it—and here is a real answer we hope you will take to heart in the name of One who loved and gave without reservation for all His family.


Concern

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Would you like to become a CONCERN representative? Write to CONCERN at Box 871, Nashville 2, for easy-to-use promotional material — it's fun and effective.

# This is it, !!

Nov. 1 is drawing near, the time for the Fall Action Project, "Youth in Their Families," to begin. The whole month has been set aside by Methodism for this important project, one of the most important parts of the Youth Emphasis.

A group of young people were discussing teen-age-home relations with their teacher recently. They agreed that many, many young persons do not feel free to talk things over with their parents.

One girl told of having a friend who came home with her from school each day, mainly because she did not want to go to her own home. A school teacher in the group reported that her pupils admitted to confiding more in her than in their parents.

The tragedy of the situation reflected in this discussion is that they occur so frequently in homes where teenagers live. What a shame that church families are included in this tragedy!

The thrill and challenge of this Fall Action Project are in the possibility of really changing the home life of some of these unhappy young people. This is religion in the "inner circle" of life, where it is needed. It is of tremendous importance to help parents and their young people to get along together happily, each understanding the other as much as possible.

There is excitement in teaching families how to talk over problems, to **really** pray together, to **really** have fun together, to trust and love each other; in short, to **really** grow as Christians.

It is from the home that one's primary sense of belonging stems, without which no one can be happy. It is to the home the young person retreats to find comfort, love and understanding when he has been hurt by life. It is primarily in the home that he learns a value system, and develops habits of prayer and devotion, church loyalty, understanding and sympathy, or discovers that balance of work and recreation which leads to abundance of personality and satisfaction of many basic drives.

Since adolescence is a difficult age, a time of great stresses caused by physical development and emotional growth, the home life of the teen-ager

(See page 14)

is of tremendous importance. Adolescence at best—with a helpful, friendly, understanding home life—is not easy; at worst—in a negative, hagging, distrustful, hostile home—it is terrible. One might almost wonder why there is not more delinquency than there is!

## Real Opportunity

Before Methodism during November is a tremendous opportunity to accomplish great results in the form of transformed home life where teen-agers live. Here is a brief summary of some plans, and where to find resources.

The major piece of guidance material on this Fall Action Project, "Youth in Their Families," is a small leaflet, No. 2412-B, that was mailed to every pastor during the first week in September. It can still be obtained free by writing the Service Department, Box 871, Nashville 2. This leaflet outlines projects in home, church, and community designed to help youth in their families grow as Christians. It helps locate all resource material.

For young people there are two other major pieces of literature to be used in this Project, the October and November issues of *Roundtable*. The October issue contains several excellent interpretative articles, and the main guid-

ance for the council as it plans.

The November issue contains Sunday evening program materials, other articles, and worship suggestions for Sunday morning. For youth groups that do not receive *Roundtable* regularly, a free copy of these is available for the asking from the Service Department (address above).

A wonderful resource for parents has been prepared in the November issue of *Christian Home Magazine*, which has been made available for free distribution to parents of teenagers by the Methodist Publishing House. Order from the house that serves your church. There are a number of excellent articles in this issue, with questions for discussion.

Adults who work with youth will want to secure the October and November issues of *Workers With Youth*, which contain guidance for the council and for teaching, this also from the Publishing House.

## What Kind Of Meetings

The object, of course, of the Fall Action Project, is *changed* homes in which teen-agers live. All the efforts, meetings, programs, and promotion will be of little avail unless youth in their families grow as Christians as a result.

Therefore only the best and most needed meetings should be held, and the methods used should be the most effective. Avoid speeches where people just sit and have no opportunity for response.

If good speakers are secured, let the talk be followed by a forum in which the audience can ask questions. Perhaps use "huddle" groups of four or five persons, each group raising one question.

Better still, let a prepared panel replace the speaker, and general discussion follow.

Such meetings could be for parents, for youth, or for the two in a mixed group, depending on the topic to be covered. Some things parents probably ought to discuss without their young people being present, such as "Understanding Teen-Agers." But subjects like "What time do I come home at night?" or "How much freedom do young people need?" could be better handled in a mixed group.

Several audio-visual aids will enrich programs, and are described elsewhere in this issue of CONCERN—the new film, "Chance to Grow," and a dramatic program, "As for Me and My House."

Study the resources on role-playing as a presentation technique, and tackle some parent-teener problems in this manner. This procedure is described in R. Harold Hipps' article in this issue.

Teach families to worship together by providing them with materials, and showing them how to go about it. The "Thanksgiving Worship Service" in November *Roundtable* for youth and their families provides an excellent experience of worship together. Likewise, the "Thanksgiving Prayer," available for distribution and use in the home, will help families grow in worship skills. Order from Service Department. You also will want to follow the emphasis in POWER, as suggested in a separate article.

In all programs recognize the great opportunity, and use really effective teaching methods—those which achieve participation by all in the group. Also, be sure that a number of different meetings are planned, to cover all the area of need for youth and their families in your church.

## Whose Job?

This is the job of the MYF council, which will want to borrow whatever adults for consultation and help that are needed to plan and carry out programs well. The Commission on Education in the church can help by creating a favorable atmosphere, and adult classes can encourage members to attend meetings. The pastor's sermons will be a contribution, and he can help with plans. Adult workers will share in planning, and seek to enlist support of parents.

## Time Drawing Near

Someone has said, "It is never too late, but never has been later!" Teenagers with family problems need help NOW. If plans are not laid already in your church, you must hurry. There are great possibilities of a real development in family life inherent in the plans for the "Youth in Their Families" project. Work for their realization!

**—By Wallace Chappell**

**Looks like an ordinary bunch doing an ordinary planning job? No — it's SPECIAL on both counts, because it's an alert MYF group (Prosperity, S.C.) planning their Fall Action Project — emphasis on the family. Put your group in the same sort of a line-up with this issue of CONCERN in hand, take its suggestions, and have a good Family Emphasis!**

# This is it, II!

Fall Action Project! That means we do something, doesn't it? Well, let's put our heads together and see what a small MYF like ours in Leoti, Kans., can do.

We have an average attendance of 15 or so, just like a lot of other churches in Methodism. Our town is like a lot of other towns, has a population of 1,151, three churches, grade school, high school, and people who are very much like people in other towns.

To start, we had a special meeting and discussed some of the things we might do, and could do. Then we listed the things we thought our MYF could do. Our president, Shirley McAllaster, led us to the point where we chose the activities for our Fall Action Project.

Your MYF will want to change some of them. You will want to add some things we didn't list, or that we didn't think of. If we can sit down as an MYF and plan a Fall Action Project, you can too!

★ First, we decided that if our MYF was to mean much to us, we'd need a spiritual background for it. We'd need God with us. We decided that we would use POWER for our own individual daily devotions. This was something new to many of us, but it looked as though POWER would be a great help to us. We think that if we individually have daily devotions, our families will want to have them too, as family groups.

★ Second, we thought that we should have table graces, at each meal, thanking God for life, health, and food. Then someone suggested that we prepare and have printed table graces for the restaurants in our town. We're right on a highway, and lots of people stop and eat in our town. Jeanne Steele, Glen McAllaster, and Amy Jo Brown said they'd make sure this activity got done.

★ After we decided on the table graces someone suggested that we start the month of November by designating the first Sunday as "Family in Church Sunday," and get our families in church each Sunday, but the first Sunday is a sort of special Sunday. We want *all* our families, and *all* our family in church the first Sunday in November.

★ Then someone reminded us that Booth Festival time rolled around in November, and we planned a "Sloppy Joe" supper to be served to the public the evening of Nov. 4. The proceeds will go to our Methodist Children's Home in Newton, Kans., and to the Garden City Methodist Mission.

★ We thought it would be a good idea if the MYF would sponsor a panel discussion at the Sunday evening worship hour. We asked our pastor, who said certainly we could have a panel discussion on Sunday evening during the 8 o'clock worship hour. We thought we'd like to have three MYF-ers and three parents on the panel, and discuss some of the problems that parents and MYF-ers have from time to time.

Jerry Hooker, Jack Steele, and Marilyn Fitzgerald said they'd bring a list

of suggested topics and problems for discussion and present them to the MYF for further selection. We also asked them to be responsible for selecting the three MYF-ers and the three parents to serve on the panel, and to secure their promise to take part.

Some of the topics for discussion are "What's My Responsibility in the Home." and "Dating Problems." We're urging our parents to attend this panel discussion on the second Sunday in November.

★ Some of us felt we could put more work on our lessons, so we made that a specific part of our Fall Action Project. We're going to prepare them.

★ We said we'd like to have the MYF take over the entire evening service so we planned that for Nov. 28. We're going to have a hymn sing, prayer, scripture, and a film on family life. We want our families to be Christian families, and we think we can point out some things from the film.

Of course we know that if our Fall Action Project really succeeds it will be because each one of us let God use Him and direct Him. We know too, that we'll have to be willing to be used, and that we'll have to lead the way in deepening our family's relationship to God. We believe it's worthwhile, and we believe we can do it, with God's help.

—By Ralph J. Jones

The family together

## Sharing home life

"We certainly have a lot of fun in our family," a young Methodist told another at a conference.

"I wish we did. How do you do it?"

"I suppose it's because we make a game out of the things we have to do," the first one said.

"Fun working together? Whoever had fun working together?"

"Well, it may be on account of Dad and Mom. Oh, take at washing the dishes. We play 'Initials'."

"What's that?"

"While you're drying the dishes or washing them you give the initials of some person we know. Sometimes it's a famous person, or maybe a relative. Then we can ask the one giving the initials questions that can be answered yes or no."

"That sounds interesting."

"Yes, and we play 20 questions—you know how to do that."

"Sure."

"And tap out rhythm. Somebody taps out the rhythm of a song on the bottom of a plate and the rest of the family try to guess what the song is."

"That sounds like fun."

"For some of our jobs, we time them and see if we can beat yesterday's

The family together

## Fun while working

IMAGINARY I-SPY. A player hides in his imagination and will answer questions "yes" or "no". The others try to find where he is hidden.

I'M THINKING OF A WORD . . . that rhymes with "light." Others keep guessing, acting out the answer, as a "kite" to dramatize flying a kite. Finally they discover that it is "night."

STOP THE MUSIC. One hums a tune; when one of the others thinks he knows, he says, "stop the music," then gives his answer. If he's right, it's his turn.

KNOCK-KNOCKS, JOKES, SMART SAYINGS. Save them up to spring on other members of the family. Some recent knock-knocks:

Knock-knock. Who's there? UTAH. Utah who? Utah me tryin' in de chapel! Or Utah — Utalk too much. KILLROY. Kill Roy Rogers, I'm a Gene Autry fan. AMOS—A mosquito bit me. ANDY — and he bit me again. SPINACH—spinaching me ever since! (Use last three in order.)

HINK PINKS (also called Stink Pinks, Funny Bunnies, etc.) One person gives a description of two words that rhyme, such as: "A colored toy: hink pink." (That means there is one syllable in each of the two words in the answer.) The answer is "red sled." This can get complicated—like: "A middle-East market for selling a certain kind of fruit — quadruple hink pink." Answer: "Afghanistan banana-stand." Hinky pinky represents a two-syllable answer, hinkity pinkity a three-syllable answer, and then it can go to quadruple, quintuple!

record. Of course, sometimes the beds aren't made up too well, and the sweeping isn't too good—but it's all fun."

"Well, let me ask you something, then, what about using the car? We always have trouble about that."

"We have 'family council.' Got started doing it some time back, usually around the table. Anybody in the family that wanted to could ask for a 'council' and we'd talk over the situation."

"Didn't you have trouble?"

"Oh, sure. Sometimes we'd have to ask Dad to decide, but most of the time we could work out something reasonable."

"About staying out late?"

"Yes, that too, because everybody understood. I think a lot of family problems come up because the parents or the kids don't understand each other. We argue about vacations every year.

"Well, we start talking about that in family council. Sometimes we go where Dad wants to go, and sometimes the rest of us win out. Last year we talked over the family budget and decided to stay at home and have vacation here. We camped out week-ends, had a lot of short trips, and added some play equipment in our back yard."

"What do you mean?"

"Oh, tether ball, and a badminton court. We put lights on it, too,"

"Do your mother and dad play with you?"

"Sometimes."

"How would you go about starting something like that in a family that didn't have it?"

"I don't know exactly. But I think if you'd go to your folks and tell them about the fun my family has, they might be willing to try family council. Maybe they would want to call it something else."

"That's a thought! I'm going to try when I get home. Thanks a million!"

—By Larry Eisenberg

## If some can . . .

A certain family attempted many times to establish daily devotions in their home, but were never successful. Why?

There are many homes in which devotions are a regular feature, but many more where attempts to bring the family together for a few minutes of prayer

## THE FAMILY TOGETHER

and meditation have failed.

By the very nature of our living, where each member is called his several ways, the family tends to be divided, thus creating many common problems in homes everywhere. How can a group find time to pray together if it can't even stay together?

Discovering the time to worship God as a family is a vital problem the modern family faces in its effort to draw together the ties of love, concord and mutual understanding.

There are other reasons besides the strain of modern-day living which handicap the success of family devotions: (1) ignorance of either or both parents on how to begin devotions in the home, (2) divided loyalties and interests of each family member, (3) ignorance about help available through materials and other sources for the parent, (4) inadequate planning of time in daily schedule for activity as a family, (5) individual self-interests ruling over group participation.

The feeling among many conscientious parents and their young people that they have grown apart from each other is involved in their inability to share together in the divine experience of group worship.

A simple prayer together, table grace at each meal, or reading an appropriately selected Bible passage each day can do wonders towards knitting family ties.

Moral and spiritual growth will never be achieved until each person devotes his or her total being in a response to God's love and presence.

All these simple approaches to corporate worship at home are helpful, but perhaps the best guide toward growing together with God is in the use of family devotional reading. There is at present an earnest attempt to fill the vacuum of available devotional material for family use at all age levels.

For the childless married couple the selection of material is varied. Margueritte Harmon Bro's *A Prayer Every Day*, Margaret Applegarth's *Men as Trees Walking*, and E. Stanley Jones' many books of devotions are excellent ideas.

For families with small children the selection is limited. *Prayer Time*, edited by E. Staples, is perhaps the best so far. *Christian Home* magazine has appropriate family devotions in each issue.

Probably the best and most widely used devotional reading guide is the *Upper Room*. This universally-known magazine appeals to both youth and adults. POWER, the youth devotional magazine, is rapidly gaining popularity among young people and students. The advantage in using such guides as POWER and the *Upper Room* is that they provide aid in reading and understanding the Bible, are inspirational, and are brief. The Oct.-Nov.-Dec. issue of POWER is highly usable by families.

The need for family devotions is real. A family grows together as they grow with God. Truly successful family devotions rest primarily on the stick-to-it-ivness and ingenuity to discover the best sources and schedule possible. If some families can work it out, so can yours.

—By LeRoy O. King

# Be your mother

*(Role playing, or an impromptu playing-out of a problem, is a very effective form of dramatization. Individuals are asked to assume certain roles in a situation that is described and, without rehearsal, to act the way they think such persons would act in that situation.*

*(This technique enables those who participate to bring out the kinds of feelings and emotions which often are involved in such a situation.*

*(Because this type of program is spontaneous and can be put on without advance preparation, and also because it has various special values, it is quite popular.)*

Anna, a character in Nora Stirling's dramatic sketch, *The Room Upstairs*, says, "It isn't that I have anything to say. I just think . . . A play's so much less embarrassing. It's hard to talk . . . in public."

And so it is! If we take our cue from Anna we begin to see that "the play's the thing" — the medium by which we can express ourselves, our feelings, our attitudes; a way in which we can become the "other" person, or the personality we wish to be.

If we can't do it in real life—if we can't express ourselves before others, if we can't see our way through a situation, or find an answer to our most persistent problems—then, we **can** act it out. Play the role!

The Methodist Youth Fellowship of West Market Street Methodist church in Greensboro, N. C., has found Role Playing to be one of the best ways to help young people and their parents gain insight into one another's feelings and attitudes and so better understand other's behavior.

This is an effective way of changing people's attitudes toward others because the people who take part in a role-playing scene put themselves in the other person's shoes.

Role Playing is a relatively new educational technique in which people spontaneously act out problems of human relations and analyze the action with the help of other role players and observers.

In youth-parent meetings Role Playing can be an invaluable aid for getting into the "heart of the matter"—for bringing youth-parent problems and situations into proper focus for study and discussion.

Role Playing has become very popular with youth-parent gatherings at West Market Street Church partly because it is an absorbing group activity —providing opportunity for more active participation by all group members than many other educational methods.

A major value of Role Playing is that it can bring out facts about human behavior and human relations which are not made possible by the more traditional methods.

Written reports and lectures do not provide the group with direct common experience of what is being discussed. Role Playing appeals to the whole of the learner. He not only hears about the problem or tells about it: he **lives through it** by acting it out—he experiences it emotionally and then uses this experience to produce and test insights into the problem and ways of dealing with it.

Through Role Playing youth and par-

ents alike develop new skills for dealing with situations and concerns in family relations.

Perhaps the most important value of Role Playing in youth-parent meetings is that, because it offers a means of presenting family problems and situations in the setting of the classroom or group meeting, members can experiment with their behavior, make mistakes and try new skills without chancing the hurts that experimentation in real-life situations may often involve.

In this make-believe setting the learner has an opportunity to try out new behavior patterns in the presence, not of judges, but of co-learners.

Other MYF groups wanting to make use of Role Playing will find a valuable starter in the article by Paul B. Maves on page 59 of the October *Roundtable*. For more fully developed scripts and dramatic sketches, investigate the special materials prepared for the Fall Action Project of the Youth Emphasis —"Youth in Their Families"—and the series of American Theatre Wing Community Plays by Nora Stirling, Available from the National Association for Mental Health, 1190 Broadway, New York 19, N. Y.

—By R. Harold Hipps

## You belong to a family

One of the most significant groups of which we are a part is the family. There are times when our families are problems . . . they hold us back, limit our freedom, give us responsibilities, and seem to get in our road a bit—particularly when we have to put up with the "kid sister" or younger brother!

But by and large the family is a pretty wonderful group. Through it we have a chance to share and to grow. The family helps us with our problems, gives us counsel and guidance, and through it all provides an atmosphere of love and understanding which can mean more through the years than anything else.

During November the Methodist Youth Fellowship will focus its thinking on the relationship between young people and their families, and how the church can work with young people

# VIEWS

and the family to realize the possibilities of Christian fellowship.

Too frequently youth think of the families in terms of what the family can do for them. During this Fall Action Project we are going to turn this around and think about **what you and your buddies can do for your family!**

You are an important person in your family. You can help it to be a place where the spirit of love is so real that growth can take place in the presence of the normal tensions which develop in group relationships.

**Concern Feature**

Young people are realizing in an increasing way that they have a lot to do with the development of a pleasant, happy atmosphere so essential in the home.

So often when young people talk about the home, they are thinking about the home which they will have after their own marriage. It is important to seriously consider the way in which that future home can be made Christian. But it is important not to lose sight of the fact that you are part of a home and family now. What are you doing to make it a happy Christian place?

The Fall Action Project on Youth and Their Families has as its objective the development of a deeper understanding of family relationships and the providing of opportunities for the enrichment of family fellowship.

It will begin in your home as you plan with your parents and brothers and sisters for activities which will bring your family closer together. How long has it been since you **planned** an evening of fun at home with your family?

Have you talked your problems through with your parents or tried to understand all the problems they face?

How long since you shared family devotions?

**Your church can go to work on the possibilities of making your church more family-centered."** Talk it through with your Youth Council. Suggest a meeting with the Commission on Edu-

cation of your church to discuss plans for this emphasis on the family.

Parent's forums, teen-age panels, family recreation nights, vocational clinics are but a few of the projects which will lead to closer relationships in the home.

Other groups in the community would be interested in this same concern for family life which your group has. Approach the P.-T.A., service clubs, radio stations with program ideas for youth and parents sharing in family plans and projects.

Your MYF has the opportunity this fall of focusing the attention of the whole community on the concern which you have for helping families discover the joy and happiness of Christian Fellowship.

—By Harold W. Ewing

## For you and yours

In addition to the wealth of materials in these pages for youth to promote Christian family life, a set of eight leaflets *for parents* is available from the Service Department, Box 871, Nashville 2. Subjects include:

Helping Youth: Achieve a Christian Faith, Meet the Liquor Problem, With Leisure Time Choices, Prepare for Marriage, To Worship, Choose a Vocation, Achieve World Mindedness, and Parents and the Youth Emphasis.

These leaflets will be welcome resource for any conscientious parent. The set of eight is ten cents.

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It's not too late to order the Action Project packet on "Youth in Their Families" from the Service Department (see address above), for 35 cents. The packet includes a copy of "Youth in Their Families" and "Family Fun With Teen-Agers," seven scripts for the program, "As for Me and My House," a set of the "Helping Youth" series described above, a copy of the October *Roundtable*, a description of the film, "A Chance To Grow," and an order blank for other materials.

# CUES

## "A chance to grow" wonderful film

The world premier of a new film, "A Chance To Grow," was at the National Conference on Family Life in Cleveland last week. Hundreds of Methodist families are hearing about this tremendously effective family-life movie this week, for the 30-minute viewing time was well-spent, conference delegates felt.

At first the film was intended only for use in special family-life programs, but the finished product is so effective and so well done that it will be made available for general church use, and will be a major help in building an especially good program.

It was produced by Family Films in Hollywood for the Radio and Film Commission and the Department of Christian Family Life of the General Board of Education of The Methodist Church.

Mrs. Alton is an overly-careful housekeeper and the mother of three children. While she is in the hospital for surgery, the family takes over their own housekeeping and cooking, even though they've never had a chance to learn how to do either. The result, in cooperation and mutual appreciation and shared feeling, is quite an experience for everyone concerned, and family worship becomes more meaningful.

The Methodist Publishing House branch film library in your territory will take your rental order for the film.

## Friends of CONCERN

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## "As for me" hit skit

Sometime during the fall you'll want your MYF to spend an evening with the Bronston family.

These are the folks in the skit, *As for Me and My House*. From Grandma (still quite a gal) to Jimmie (who thinks full fare at movies is unfair to twelve-year-olds) they are very real and appealing people who might live next door.

This is not exactly a play, nor is it a radio presentation. It is an entirely new kind of script adapted to presentation anywhere (ideal for a one-room church). The seven people who "put on the program" don't monopolize the evening. The audience has a part too.

Presented first at the regional youth leadership conferences last summer it has been received with enthusiasm wherever it has been used. District and subdistricts are encouraged to give demonstration performances to help local churches see its value.

In spite of, or because of the spirited fun, it shows how the family council, family fellowship, and family worship help youth and their families grow together as Christians.

Order *As for Me and My House* (set of seven copies) from the Service Department, Box 871, Nashville 2.

## Youth invited to write hymn

A special feature of the 1955 observance of "Youth Week" by the Protestant churches of the United States (Jan. 30 to Feb. 6) will be a series of hymn festivals arranged by young people in churches and communities across the nation.

The observance is being planned by the United Christian Youth Movement of the National Council of Churches.

For use at the hymn festivals and other youth occasions, a new hymn text, written by a youth under 30 years of age, is being sought. The Hymn Society of America is inviting young authors to submit their own hymn words, from which a committee of the Society will select one or more to be published for use at the festivals.

"The theme for the 1955 Youth Week will be 'One Fellowship in Christ' but judges will consider any theme suitable for the Christian life of youth. Hymns should be written in well-known meters found in standard hymnals.

The new texts should be sent not later than Dec. 1, 1954, to the Hymn Society of America, 297 Fourth Ave., New York 10, N. Y. They should specify that the author is under thirty.

## MYF in action

**Artemio R. Guillermo**

The home church in the Philippines of Artemio R. Guillermo, a Crusade scholar, is the recipient of a mission offering of two West Virginia youth assemblies. His father, the Rev. Esteban Guillermo, is pastor of the Methodist church in San Jose, Nueva Ecija, for which more than 300 high school pupils gave $243.03.

Artemio was the assemblies' national, speaking at their World Friendship banquets and sharing their programs on the campus of West Virginia Wesleyan college this summer. Officers of the group are Faith Crowson, president, and Phil King and Peg Walker, vice presidents.

## MYF Roundup

◆ Officers in sub-districts, districts and Wisconsin Conference chose **Edith Marshall** as conference MYF president for the coming year.

She and others, all elected without opposition, were installed by Bishop Northcott after he conducted a communion service for both Wisconsin and West Wisconsin Conference officers at Pine Lake.

◆ Heber Springs, Ark., MYF members decided Bill Wellborn of Texarkana, Ark., is a real "Good Samaritan"—a stranger to them, he helped unload ice, assisted when they had trouble with electrical connections on their ice cream box, and was their best cold-drink customer during their three-day enterprise with an ice cream stand at an annual Old Soldier's reunion. Bill operated a "snow-cone" stand next to the MYF booth. MYFund and other projects of the Heber Springs group will receive $120 from their efforts, says Reporter Barbara Meacham.

◆ MYF'ers in Hubbard, Texas, passed out 500 circulars to youth in town and the towns near-by in preparation for Youth Activities Week. They even stopped the Greyhound bus and asked the driver to help them in publicity. The group grew from 15 to 50 and the average attendance was near 50.

Meals for Millions was the project of the week — a large contribution was made.

Supper was served each evening by the women of the church; a course, "What Does It Mean To Be a Christian?" was taught by Ermilee Holdridge, and there were discussions on "Problems Facing Youth," time for fun and time for worship.

Counselors for the group were the Rev. and Mrs. Lively Brown, Mrs. Jo Frank Bell and Mrs. James Anderson.

## MSM in action

### New building at East Texas

Methodists of five conferences — North Texas, Northwest Texas, Southwest Texas, Central Texas and Texas—included in the Texas Methodist Student Movement, have a share in a new Wesley Foundation building under construction at East Texas State college at Commerce.

The new building is part of Texas Methodism's program of Bible courses and training activities on a full-time basis at 18 colleges in Texas, employing 21 full-time workers and part-time workers. Sixteen student centers are supervised by Texas Methodists.

Bishop William C. Martin of Dallas attended the ground-breaking ceremonies Oct 2.

The Rev. Richard Clemans is the first full-time Foundation director and Bible teacher for the more than 350 Methodists attending the college.

Offices for the Wesley Foundation had been maintained in First Methodist church, Commerce, and in another building, with two part-time directors.

### Portugese pastor helps in Africa

A Portugese minister, Senhor Abel Rodrigues, helped in leadership for 65 youth and counselors at the second annual youth camp in the Luanda-Malange area of Angola, Africa, in July. At the request of the Angola interdenominational organization he also spent more than two months visiting churches in the colony.

This year much more of the eight-day camp leadership was assumed by African ministers, reports A-3'er Marion Way, who comments: "How quickly some of them have caught the idea and purpose of youth groups!" There is a steady increase in the number of youth groups in the area, and next year there will be a conference of representatives from all the youth organizations Angola.

# NCMY aftermath

*Editorial* from the Naperville, Ill., SUN, Thurs., Sept. 9, 1954.

(When the interracial National Conference of Methodist Youth held its annual meeting in Naperville in August, the whole group couldn't swim in the city pool because there were some of colored skin, so none of NCMY went swimming. Church and civic leaders learned of the episode, and judging from this editorial, Naperville is learning a lesson in race relations. One more instance of a Christian group making a witness that counts.)

"Tuesday night I attended an unusual meeting of the City Council, at which 49 guests were present. Each was given an opportunity to speak on the subject of race discrimination. As I sat and listened, I couldn't help realizing that human nature has changed very little, if any, during the past 1,954 years. The thought came to my mind that if Christ were on earth today, he would again be crucified.

Hate and prejudice reared their ugly heads at this meeting, for a time . . . It takes a great deal of courage to stand up and calmly maintain one's convictions in the face of jeers of one's fellow men . . . Outnumbered as they were, these (five) men and women deserve great credit for the way they spoke, without rancor and bitterness, in the face of insults.

It is a strange paradox that we insist that those whom we educate and select to fill our pulpits must be men of the highest ideals—and in the same breath insist that they do not preach those ideals to us. Because of his very nature, however, there can be no compromise, no halfway measure, for the true idealist. That is why the idealist is often a martyr to his cause.

As for myself, I am, without apology, a middle-of-the-roader . . . I would be one of the last persons to advocate a change in the character of this community. Yet, I see no harm or danger in extending full privileges to groups or individuals who are guests in Naperville. And I believe this could be done without wholesale and indiscriminate abuse of the privileges Naperville is fortunate in possessing.

. . . I am materialistically minded enough not to want to see my property values decline. But . . . I don't believe that is what is going to happen. Naperville's cost of living . . . will always discourage the poorer element of humanity from moving into this city—regardless of race, color, or creed. The plain fact is that those persons who, we fear, may encroach upon our "isolated" territory **don't want to move here at all** . . . If we give them the idea that they **are** forbidden, we may actually attract them by our very act of pushing them away!

And finally, I feel we should be very thankful that we live in a country where we can still speak our minds without fear of being sent to a concentration camp. I commend the City Council for holding this open forum, and although nothing was accomplished but airing of views, I feel that even this was well worthwhile. Both factions now have a better understanding of what is in each other's minds."

**New officers of Wesley MYF in Morgantown, W. Va., include, l-to-r, Margie Christopher (prexy), Barbara Largent, Jane Corder, Susan Bertram, Amy Schuster, Marcia Percival, Jane Ashworth, Bob Allen, Jim Shrader, Donna Berdine, Bob Bowie, Charles Moats and Leigh Percival. Standing behind the camera were Sally Bailey, Betsy Miller and Craig Michel.**

# A test for Methodists

"Why did you come to see us? Most Americans don't know we exist."

These words were hurled at me by a discouraged refugee in a West Berlin camp—one of the million who, in the past few years, have fled from the Soviet Zone, seeking a free life. He still wore the streetcar conductor's uniform in which he had escaped.

Herded into a barracks converted factory room with a hundred other escapees, he was waiting for the German government to settle his status as a refugee. After that, he could think of his future.

Why did he flee? "Because my boy was forced by the Soviets to spy against his neighbors. We couldn't stand that, so we crossed the border."

Asked to assume responsibility for finding sponsors for the 5,000 refugees whom The Methodist Church hopes to bring into our country under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953, I have spent two months in Europe to learn what kind of people these refugees are, and why some of them should be encouraged to seek new homes in the United States. This refugee journey, made under the auspices of the World Council of Churches and the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, opened doors no ordinary tourist could have entered. Visiting one refugee camp after another, I became acquainted with some of the homeless, stateless people who are—even a decade after the last war—still finding their only homes in dismal camps in Holland, Belgium, West Germany, Austria, the Free territory of Trieste and Italy.

I had to give the Berlin car conductor an answer. "I came to see you because I represent the Methodist church in America. We hope to help 5,000 refugees to find new life in our country."

"Oh, yes, I've heard about that," said my friend. Then, giving me a penetrating look, "But when are you going to begin? A lot of refugees have made out their papers. What happens? They just sit and wait, as they've waited for years. What's the meaning of it all for us? Isn't the time almost up when we can go?"

**Concern Feature**

This fellow was striking at the core of our testing. The refugees, I was told by some officials in the camps, know more about the refugee problem than anyone else. Their grapevine spreads the discouragement they all feel over the long delay in implementing the Refugee Relief Act of 1953. They know that a year has gone by since the Act was signed, with only a trickling of refugees getting into the United States. And they also know that the Act expires on December 31, 1956. They've had bitter experiences in making out their documents. And then they wait.

As I mingled in the endless stream of the homeless, each case seemed a small-scale human tragedy—the war-widow from Ukraine whose child had been born in camp and knew nothing else but its daily sordidness: the bewildered young Hungarian with a diploma from a distinguished technical school in the United States who dared to return to Europe between wars, thinking he was equipped to make a living. He was caught in an army behind the Iron Curtain and became a flier. He was one of the first who dared to fly over the border and crashland in a free country. Today he is a refugee —well prepared to do a job in our country, but still waiting.

There is the young Yugoslav woman, arrested by Russians in Belgrade, sent to Bulgaria and then, in turn, to

NOTE: **Miss Elizabeth Lee**, author of this article, is Secretary of Promotion of the Refugee Resettlement Program of the Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief.

**Conference youth officers in Angola, Africa, and Senhor Abel Rodrigues, minister from Portugal, share experiences during youth camp in the Luanda-Malange area of Angola. L-to-r are Ardiano de Almeida, secretary; Julia Ingles, treasurer; Sr. Felipe de Freitas, youth director; Sr. Rodriges; and Simao Cardoso, president.**

Turkey, Trieste and Holland. Well-trained as a secretary, speaking six languages, she waits to come to the USA. Trieste has a group of hopeful, strong refugees who are eagerly studying in the excellent Vocational Training School of the World Council of Churches, "because we want to have a good trade when we emigrate to America." Hundreds like these lingered in my dreams and I often said to myself, "Here, but for the grace of God, I might be."

They must not wait longer. Our government has said they might come, but for each eligible emigrant the crux of the matter is sponsorship. Under the R.R.A., no refugee has a chance of entering America without a sponsor.

In the beginning, last March, our faith in Methodism's response to this humanitarian venture was high. The church press valiantly helped to make the need known. It would be easy among our great membership to find Methodist sponsors for 5,000 refugees. Some of them would come in family units, with one sponsor to a family. About 3,500 sponsors would be needed, maybe. We expected to fill our quota quickly.

But six months have passed since the first appeal went out to the churches. Many inquiries have come into the office. Many letters and much explanatory material have gone out across the country. We should have at least 1,000 sponsors by now.

As I return from Europe with the tremendous need of the refugees upon my conscience, these are the facts I face. Up to August 1, MCOR had received 108 completed assurance forms which could be forwarded to Church World Service and thence to Washington. Eighty-three other bona fide sponsorships have been offered and applications from refugees are now being matched to these offers. Not even two hundred sponsorships from our denomination in six months. And only two years to go!

This constitutes our test. Word has gone throughout Europe and the Far East that The Methodist Church will help to bring 5,000 refugees. But the Methodist people are not offering specific sponsorships for these homeless ones who wait in the dreary camps. Delay is dangerous. The Communists will be alert to use our slowness as their propaganda. "Look!" they can say to the refugees, "Look at those American churches! They promise to help you, but they are not making good. You will be better off on our side of the curtain."

If you will do your part to meet the test, send in your sponsorship today.

Note: A folder, "They Escaped But . . .," a poster, "Will They Reach Freedom's Shore?" and copies of Miss Lee's article and other information on sponsorship are available to Methodism.

Inquiries should be addressed to Miss Lee in care of The Methodist Committee for Overseas Relief, 150 Fifth Avenue, New York 11.)

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